

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 AEC-11 AECE-00

NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 CCO-00

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Z 151843Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 597

SECDEF WASHDC FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9473

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SOVIET PRESS LEAK OF EASTERN PROPOSAL

ON BEHALF OF CHAIRMAN OF AD HOC GROUP, PLEASE PASS  
TEXT TO SECRETARY GENERAL (ATTENTION MR. HAAS) FOR  
DISTRIBUTION TO ALL PERMREPS, HEAD NATO PRESS  
SERVICE AND CHARIMAN MILCOM, IMMEDIATE RETRANSMISSION  
NATO-WIDE TO ALL CAPITALS (FOR MINISTRIES  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS) IS ALSO REQUESTED.

1. BOTH THE AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY (APA) AND  
DPA CARRY DISPATCHES DATED NOVEMBER 15 CONTAINING  
SOME ELEMENTS OF THE EASTERN NOVEMBER 8 PROPOSAL  
TABLED IN PLENARY MEETING IN VIENNA. THERE IS EVIDENCE  
THAT THIS STORY WAS LEAKED TO APA AND THEN TO  
DPA BY THE TASS CORRESPONDENT IN VIENNA AND THEREFORE  
THAT IT IS A DELIBERATE SOVIET ACTION. TEXT OF APA  
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RELEASE IS BELOW.

2. IN ITS DISCUSSION OF THE LEAK ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 15, THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED TO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES ON A BACKGROUND BASIS USING THE SHORT PRESS GUIDANCE BELOW. THE GROUP ALSO AGREED TO EVALUATE WESTERN PRESS REACTION TO THE SOVIET LEAK ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19. IF THE WESTERN PRESS DOES NOT PLAY UP THE SOVIET LEAK HEAVILY, IT WILL NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO KEEP THE STORY ALIVE. THE GROUP WILL REACH A CONCLUSION ON NOVEMBER 19 WHETHER IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DO FURTHER INFORMAL BACKGROUNDING USING APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF THE LONGER CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE (SENT SEPTTEL) AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT FULL DETAILS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN REVEALED. THE COMPLETE TEXT COULD BE DRAWN ON IN LATER CONTINGENCY. THE GROUP WILL FORWARD TO YOU ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION AT THAT TIME. IN THE MEANWHILE, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMEN DO NOT GO BEYOND THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE SHORTER PRESS GUIDANCE.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF AUSTRAIN PRESS AGENCY RELEASE OF NOVEMBER 15, 1973.

ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, THE STATES OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAVE TABLED A CONCRETE PLAN DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN VIENNA WITH NATO FOR A PHASED REDUCUTION OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE STARTING WITH 1975 ON. ACCORDING TO IT, THE FIRST PHASE IN 1975 SHOULD BRING ABOUT A TWO-SIDED TROOP REDUCTION OF 20,000 MEN EACH. A 5 PERCENT REDUCTION OF THE RESPECTIVE POTENTIAL SHOULD MAKE UP A FURTHER REDUCTION IN 1976, AND IN 1977, IN THE THIRD PHASE, THERE SHOULD BE A REDUCTION OF 15 PERCENT. BASIC POINTS OF REFERENCE SHOULD BE THE NUMBER OF FORCES IN EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. (COMMENT OF AD HOC GROUP: THE REMAINDER OF THIS PARAGRAPH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ADDED BY APA ON THE BASIS OF ALREADY PUBLIC MATERIAL. END COMMENT.) ACCORDING TO FURTHER INFORMATION, THE EASTERN SIDE CONTINUES TO HOLD TO THE VIEW THAT A BALANCED REDUCTION OF NATIONAL AND FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD TAKE PLACE. AT THE START OF THE CONFERENCE, THE AMERICAN SIDE PROPOSED TO RESTRICT ITSELF DURING THE FIRST PHASE TO A REDUCTION OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE AREA OF REDUCTION, THAT IS THE TERRITORIES OF THE FRG AND THE BENELUX COUNTRIES ON THE WESTERN SIDE, AND ON

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THE EASTERN SIDE THE TERRITORY OF DDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND, CONTAINS A CONFRONTATION OF 770,000 NATO SOLDIERS AND ROUGHLY 900,000 SOLDIERS OF THE WARSAW PACT.

THE SPEAKER OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION REFUSED TO TAKE ANY POSITION ON THIS REPORT WITH THE REFERENCE TO THE AGREED-TO CONFIDENTIALITY; BUT HE EXPRESSLY CONTESTED AN ASSERTION OF THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE OF WEDNESDAY, ACCORDING TO WHICH NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE VIENNA CONFERENCE. THE

SPAKER EMPHASIZED THAT THE WARSAW PACT STATES CAME TO VIENNA WITH THE FULL INTENTION OF BRINGING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A POSITION CONCLUSION. A WESTERN SPOKESMAN ALSO WAS NOT READY TO COMMENT ABOUT THE PHASED EASTERN PLAN, BUT DID NOT EXPRESSLY DENY THIS INFORMATION. HE TOO REFERRED TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE TALKS. AS THE PLENARY MEETING ON THURSDAY, THE CHAIRMAN WAS THE WEST GEMAN REPRESENTATIVE; THE FOLLOWING SPOKE: CANADA, BELGIUM, THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA. BOTH SIDES DESCRIBED THE MOOD OF THE CONFERENCE AS BUSINESSLIKE, AND HAVING GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS.

END TEST OF AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY RELEASE OF  
NOVEMBER 15, 1973.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF SUGGESTED SHORT RESPONSE:

A. YES. THE EAST HAS ELABORATED ON ITS INITIAL STATEMENT. THEIR PROPOSAL WILL BE USEFUL IN MAKING MORE SPECIFIC THE NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBSTANCE.

B. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROPOSALS ALREADY PUT FORWARD BY THE WEST, WE ARE GETTING WELL INTO THE DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR.

C. THE MAIN LINE OF APPROACH OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE "EXISTING CORRELATION OF FORCES" IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS SATISFACTORY AND SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN ANY OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXISTING SECURITY SITUATION CAN AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED.

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D. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY THEIR PROPOSAL FURTHER.

END TEXT OF SUGGESTED SHORT RESPONSE.HUMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 NOV 1973  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PARM, UR, NATO, MBFR  
**To:** NATO BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
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